



TENNESSEE  
AGRICULTURAL  
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## TENNESSEE WEEKLY WEATHER AND CROP BULLETIN



Released Weekly April - November

2000 Weather Crop 2

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Week Ending April 9, 2000

### FREEZING TEMPERATURES CAUSE CONCERN ACROSS TENNESSEE

Farmers watched anxiously as night time temperatures dipped below freezing in many parts of the State last week. With apple and peach trees already in bloom, Tennessee fruit growers had the most to lose. Early indications suggest only a light freeze, but growers will not know the full extent of the damage until later in the growing season. Some early planted corn and wheat acreage was also adversely affected, but the majority is expected to recover. Rain showers early last week hindered corn planting across most of the State with farmers only planting an additional 11 percent of the intended acreage. Despite the setback, planting continues to run slightly ahead of the five-year average. The State's wheat crop is currently rated in mostly good-to-excellent conditions with development about 10 days ahead of normal. Cotton farmers are waiting for warmer soil temperatures before planting their crop. Heavy rains delayed fieldwork and caused flooding in some locations, but helped pastures and replenished farm ponds. Three days were considered suitable for fieldwork. As of Friday, topsoil moisture levels were rated 1 percent very short, 2 percent short, 75 percent adequate, and 22 percent surplus. Subsoil moisture levels were rated 3 percent very short, 27 percent short, 62 percent adequate, and 8 percent surplus.

#### CROP PROGRESS: Through April 9, 2000

#### CROP CONDITION: On April 7, 2000

Crop	This Week	Last Week	1999	Five Year Avg.	Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Exc
Percent					Percent					
Corn - Planted	25	14	10	21	Wheat	0	3	12	51	34
Tobacco - Seeded	90	82	80	86	Pastures	2	9	35	49	5
Tobacco - Plants Up	73	50	57	58	Strawberries	0	3	41	49	7
Winter Wheat - Jointed	88	55	60	67						
Apples - Budding or Beyond	96	93	75	82						
Apples - Blooming or Beyond	75	34	41	51						
Peaches - Blooming or Beyond	87	75	84	82						

**CORN:** As of Sunday, 25 percent of the intended acreage had been planted, well ahead of last year and slightly ahead of the five-year average. Soggy field conditions and the threat of freezing temperatures forced many growers to delay planting last week. Soil temperatures in some locations are still too low to promote good germination.

**TOBACCO:** Growers seeded an additional 8 percent of their tobacco beds last week and are currently running slightly ahead of the five-year average. Seventy-three percent of the beds have plants up. No reports of widespread disease problems have been reported thus far.

**WHEAT:** Despite some reports of freeze damage, the State's wheat crop remains in mostly good-to-excellent condition. As of Sunday, 88 percent had reached the joint stage. Hardin county reported over 2,000 acres of wheat under water along the Tennessee River, due to the heavy rains last week.

**FRUITS:** Most areas reported only light freeze damage to the State's fruit crops, but more will be known in the coming weeks. As of Sunday, virtually all the apple tress had reached the budding stage, while 75 percent were blooming. Peach development was running only slightly ahead of normal. Strawberries are currently rated in good-to-fair condition.

**PASTURES:** Farmers are currently spreading fertilizer and applying herbicides to their fields. Pastures are rated in mostly good condition and have responded well to the recent rains.

**COTTON:** Field preparation continued over the weekend and most producers are now waiting for soil temperatures to rise to an acceptable level. Several growers have added planter capacity so they can plant their crop more rapidly. This is being done mostly to offset higher input costs.

LOCATION	TEMPERATURE				PRECIPITATION				GDD BASE 60F	
	Week Ending 04/09/00				Current Week 04/09/00	Rain Days	Current Since April 1	Departure From Normal	Since April 1	
	HI	LO	AVG	DFN					Total	DFN
Ames_Plantation	79	29	55	-5	1.72	3	2.56	+0.85	21	-3
Bristol	78	30	53	-1	1.69	5	1.70	+0.71	10	+10
Brownsville_TN	77	32	55	-5	1.58	3	2.26	+0.69	16	+7
Chattanooga	80	32	57	+0	4.82	3	5.99	+4.59	29	+19
Clarksville_Sew	81	31	56	+0	1.64	4	2.56	+1.13	24	+12
Cookeville	76	25	51	-4	3.55	4	3.84	+2.42	8	+8
Covington	78	35	55	-3	1.79	3	1.79	+0.17	17	+0
Crossville_AP	74	27	51	-2	3.54	3	3.78	+2.29	9	+9
Dickson_AG	79	24	55	-2	1.75	3	1.93	+0.40	21	+8
Dover_1W	78	29	53	-3	1.98	3	2.85	+1.32	20	+11
Dyersburg	75	30	54	-5	2.04	3	2.27	+0.89	20	+1
Erwin_1W	82	33	52	+2	1.58	4	1.66	+0.46	3	-6
Huntingdon_Wate	76	26	52	-6	1.28	4	1.79	+0.37	9	+0
Jackson_AG	80	30	55	-3	1.68	3	2.49	+1.01	16	+0
Kingston_AG	78	29	53	-2	4.69	3	4.99	+3.59	11	+10
Knoxville_AP	74	30	54	-2	3.20	5	3.42	+2.24	17	+9
Lewisburg	73	26	52	-4	3.32	3	4.01	+2.59	7	-2
Lexington_TN	79	28	54	-4	1.59	3	2.62	+1.23	22	+22
Linden	79	27	53	-4	2.31	3	2.99	+1.53	12	+3
Martin	76	29	53	-3	1.59	4	1.75	+0.22	11	+1
Mc_Minnville_Tn	76	28	55	-3	2.81	3	3.32	+1.91	18	+1
Memphis_AG	77	33	55	-7	1.70	3	2.58	+0.96	14	-13
Milan	79	22	51	-6	1.52	3	2.07	+0.62	4	-6
Murfreesboro_5N	76	27	51	-5	2.57	3	2.92	+1.55	4	-22
Nashville	77	28	55	-3	1.69	3	1.84	+0.53	23	+10
Newcomb	73	27	51	-2	2.75	5	2.76	+1.40	4	+4
Oneida	73	25	50	-2	3.08	3	3.29	+1.93	3	-11
Pikeville	77	25	53	-4	3.60	3	4.26	+2.85	4	-5
Portland_TN	78	29	52	-3	1.93	3	2.23	+0.89	10	+4
Pulaski_Water_P	78	27	54	-6	3.83	3	4.83	+3.40	14	-4
Savannah_6SW	81	29	53	-8	1.87	3	3.08	+1.46	23	+14
Sparta_TN	76	25	53	-3	2.63	4	2.97	+1.58	16	+11
Springfield	78	25	52	-3	1.72	4	1.93	+0.61	12	+4
Springhill	81	26	53	-2	2.76	3	3.44	+1.90	22	+13
Union_City	75	30	52	-4	0.76	3	1.01	-0.43	8	-1

Precipitation Days = Days with precip of 0.01 inch or more.      Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches.

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